

Nixon on Vietnam ^{post 7.11.75}

COLUMBIA, S.C.—Former President Nixon believes the United States should not have let South Vietnam fall to the Communists and that he could have stopped it had he remained in office, The (Columbia, S.C.) State reported yesterday.

The newspaper said former Nixon aide Harry S. Dent, now a Columbia attorney, spoke with the former chief executive by telephone for about an hour recently.

"I told him that if his administration had continued, the South Vietnamese government would not have collapsed," said Dent. "He emphatically agreed with that, but he was not being critical of President Ford's handling of the situation."

Dent told the newspaper that Nixon telephoned him unexpectedly to "pick my brain about what's happening in politics."

"He didn't sound like the old Nixon. He didn't sound like a whipped dog, not crying or mumbling. He sounded very good," Dent said.